

**CITY OF MIAMI BEACH**  
**Office of the City Manager**  
**Letter to Commission No. 154-2005**



**To:** Mayor David Dermer and  
Members of the City Commission

**Date:** June 8, 2005

**From:** Jorge M. Gonzalez  
City Manager

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jorge", written over the printed name.

**Subject: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS  
CANCELLATION OF 2006 NATIONAL CONVENTION**

On May 24, 2005, the City received official notification from the National Association of Letter Carriers that it would not be holding its 2006 National Convention on Miami Beach. The event was to have taken place at the Miami Beach Convention Center in August 2006. The reasons given for the cancellation were the lack of sufficient number of represented workers to be employed by Centerplate, the Center's exclusive food and beverage provider, and the reduction of available hotel rooms in Miami Beach hotel properties employing union workers. It should be noted that Centerplate did provide a copy of its collective bargaining agreement with Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union Local 355, AFL-CIO, covering catering service staff and kitchen staff, and had agreed to utilize workers from that union to staff concession stands as well.

This is the second union group to cancel due to lack of union hotel availability, following the earlier cancellation of the AFSCME Convention originally scheduled for June 2006. The elimination of the Sheraton Bal Harbour and the uncertainty of union status at the Fontainebleau are the principal contributors to this situation.

The cancellation of these two conventions, coupled with the cancellation of the SAP Field Kickoff Meeting for January 2006 due to the unavailability of an affordable and viable hotel block, will result in the loss of over \$850,000 in anticipated net revenues to the Center, as well as millions in economic impact to the city and its hospitality industry as a whole. Should you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

JMG:THMS\DT

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c: Tim Hemstreet, Assistant City Manager  
Max Sklar, Director of Tourism and Cultural Development  
Doug Tober, General Manager, MBCC and JGT

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